



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 5
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60604**

DATE: JAN 03 2016

SUBJECT: CLEAN AIR ACT INSPECTION
REPORT
Three Brothers Laundry, Chicago, Illinois

FROM: Scott Connolly, Environmental Engineer
AECAB (IL/IN)

THRU: Nathan Frank, Section Chief
AECAB (IL/IN)

TO: File

BASIC INFORMATION

Facility Name: Three Brothers Laundry

Facility Location: 2643 W 19th Street, Chicago, Illinois

Date of Inspection: December 2, 2016

Lead Inspector: Scott Connolly, Environmental Engineer, US EPA

Other Attendees:

1. Sara Loiacono, Environmental Scientist, US EPA
2. Nayan Patel, General Manager, Three Brothers Laundry
3. Alex Loeber, Maintenance Personnel, Three Brothers Laundry

Purpose of Inspection: To determine compliance with the Illinois State Implementation Plan and to address community complaints.

Facility Type: Industrial Laundromat

Arrival Time: 12:37 pm

Departure Time: 1:15 pm

Inspection Type:

☒ Unannounced Inspection

☐ Announced Inspection

OPENING CONFERENCE

- ☒ Credentials Presented
- ☒ CBI warning to facility provided

The following information was obtained verbally from Nayan Patel or Alex Loeber unless otherwise noted.

Company Ownership: The building that the laundromat operates in was empty until the company purchased it in 2015. Laundry operations began in March of 2016.

Process Description:

The facility operates as an industrial laundromat that processes hotel laundry. The facility operates up to 12 hours per day, 7 days per week, depending on customer orders. Pillows are washed in one of three single load washers. Sheets, towels and other linens are washed in a multi-stage washing machine that can process up to 30,000 pounds of laundry a day. Cleaning soaps and chemicals are withdrawn directly from storage by a system of pumps and are added to the machine in premeasured amounts. The multi-stage washing machine has two vents that vent directly out the roof. Washed linens exit the multi-stage washer and are automatically pressed to remove water before entering one of four Milnor, natural gas-powered industrial dryers. Each dryer has two stacks, one exhaust and one intake. A fabric filter bag is used to capture lint from the dryers. Dried linens are ironed and folded in automatic machines that use a heating oil system to heat press any wrinkles out. Ironed and folded linens are sent by truck back to customers.

Staff Interview: Facility staff stated that the industrial washer uses a water reclamation system to save water and that the chemical company, Gurtler, visits every week to titrate the water to make sure the correct amount of chemicals and cleaners are used. Maintenance personnel check the lint filter bag once per day and changes bags as needed. The exhaust ducting from the dryers are cleaned once a month. Facility staff noted that most of the equipment used was newly purchased and all but two of the sheet ironing machines were purchased new.

TOUR INFORMATION

EPA toured the facility: Yes

Data Collected and Observations:

The cleaning supplies are stored in palletized containers in room separated from the rest of the processes. Soaps, fabric softeners, pH neutralizing soaps, and bleach are pumped from this room to the washing machine.

Field Measurements: were not taken during this inspection.

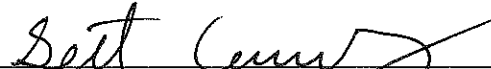
CLOSING CONFERENCE


Requested documents:

- Copies of Safety Data Sheets for all of the cleaning supplies and chemicals used on site.

Concerns: I noted that there was a brownish discoloration dried from drips that appeared to be leaking out of the exhaust duct of the new ironer. Facility staff did not know the source of the discoloration, but thought it might be from the wax used in the ironer. The ironer room was visibly smoky and had a slight burning and strong fabric softener smell. Ms. Loiacono noted that her throat was slightly irritated when within the building.

SIGNATURES

Lead Inspector:  Date: 12/14/16

Section Chief:  Date: 1/3/17

